

Claim Amendments:

1 - 20 (canceled)

21 (currently amended) - An apparatus for use in dispensing a liquid, said apparatus comprising:

- (a) a container defining a wall;
- (b) a closure adapted to close off the open end of said container, said closure ~~presenting~~ defining a recessed channel;
- (c) an outlet passage substantially formed by said recessed channel and said wall of said container when said closure is attached to said container, said outlet passage having a fluid entrance and a fluid exit so as to provide communication between the interior and exterior of said container [[;]], said outlet passage having sufficient volume to prevent contained liquid from reaching said fluid exit when said apparatus is inverted, the displacement of contained liquid from said container into said outlet passage creating a partial vacuum within said container.
- ~~(d) a means for creating a partial vacuum within said container which prevents the contained liquid from reaching said fluid exit when said apparatus is inverted.~~

22 (canceled)

23 (canceled)

24 (previously presented) - The apparatus according to claim 21 wherein said fluid entrance and said fluid exit are substantially radially aligned.

25 (previously presented) - The apparatus according to claim 21 wherein said fluid entrance is at substantially the lowest liquid level when said apparatus is inverted.

26 (previously presented) - The apparatus according to claim 21 wherein said outlet passage is at least one single loop helix.

27 (currently amended) - The apparatus according to claim 21 wherein said ~~means for creating a partial vacuum within said container is an outlet passage having~~ has a volume greater than .060 cubic inches.

28 (currently amended) - An apparatus for use in dispensing a liquid, said apparatus comprising:

- (a) a closure defining a wall, said closure adapted to close off the open end of a container;
- (b) said container defining a recessed channel;
- (c) an outlet passage substantially formed by said recessed channel and said wall of said closure when said closure is attached to said container, said outlet passage having a fluid entrance and a fluid exit so as to provide communication between the interior and exterior of said container ~~[[;]],~~ said outlet passage having sufficient volume to prevent contained liquid from reaching said fluid exit when said apparatus is inverted, the displacement of contained liquid from said container into said outlet passage creating a partial vacuum within said container.
- ~~(d) a means for creating a partial vacuum within said container which prevents the contained liquid from reaching said fluid exit when said apparatus is inverted.~~

29 (canceled)

30 (canceled)

31 (previously presented) - The apparatus according to claim 28 wherein said fluid entrance and said fluid exit are substantially radially aligned.

32 (previously presented) - The apparatus according to claim 28 wherein said fluid entrance is at substantially the lowest liquid level when said apparatus is inverted.

33 (previously presented) - The apparatus according to claim 28 wherein said outlet passage is at least one single loop helix.

34 (currently amended) - The apparatus according to claim 28 wherein said ~~means for creating a partial vacuum within said container is an outlet passage having~~ has a volume greater than .060 cubic inches.

35 (currently amended) - An apparatus for use in dispensing a liquid, said apparatus comprising:

- (a) a container defining a wall; ~~presenting a first recessed channel~~;
- (b) a closure adapted to close off the open end of said container, said closure defining a ~~second~~ recessed channel;
- (c) an outlet passage substantially formed by said ~~first recessed channel~~ wall of said container and said ~~second~~ recessed channel of said closure when said closure is attached to said container, said outlet passage having a fluid entrance and a fluid exit so as to provide communication between the interior and exterior of said container;
- (d) ~~a means for creating a partial vacuum within said container which prevents the contained liquid from reaching said fluid exit when said apparatus is inverted.~~ said closure defining a spout, said spout containing a through hole which provides for communication between said fluid exit and the end of said spout, said through hole extending said outlet passage, said outlet passage having sufficient volume to prevent contained liquid from reaching the end of said spout when said apparatus is inverted, the displacement of contained liquid from said container into said outlet passage creating a partial vacuum within said container.

36 (canceled)

37 (canceled)

38 (previously presented) - The apparatus according to claim 35 wherein said outlet passage is at least one single loop helix.

39(previously presented) - The apparatus according to claim 35 wherein said fluid entrance is at substantially the lowest liquid level when said apparatus is inverted.

40(currently amended) - The apparatus according to claim 35 wherein said ~~means for creating a partial vacuum within said container is an~~ outlet passage ~~having~~ has a volume greater than .060 cubic inches.

41(canceled)

42(canceled)

43(canceled)

44(currently amended) - The apparatus according to claim 21 wherein said container further includes a corresponding recessed channel. ~~fluid exit is above the open end of said container.~~

45(canceled)

46(currently amended) - The apparatus according to claim 35 wherein said container further includes a corresponding recessed channel. ~~fluid exit is above the open end of said container.~~

47(new) - The apparatus according to claim 21 wherein said closure further includes a spout with a through hole which provides for communication between said fluid exit and the end of said spout.

48(new) - The apparatus according to claim 28 wherein said closure further includes a spout with a through hole which provides for communication between said fluid exit and the end of said spout.

49(new) - The apparatus according to claim 47 wherein said outlet passage is at least one single loop helix.

50(new) - The apparatus according to claim 48 wherein said outlet passage is at least one single loop helix.